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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

## PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD

NSC, NSC/PFIAB  
Reviews Completed.

July 8, 1975

Dear Mr. Colby:

When we met on my return from the European trip, I said that I would read the economic publications more closely for several months in an effort to understand the disinterest or depreciation I encountered in Europe. I have done just that for the last three months and am more baffled than ever. There has not been one issue of the Economic Intelligence Weekly which did not contain substance which I would think the top Mission officials overseas would find valuable. During these three months there have been a couple of special analyses on major economic subjects, which I thought were especially good. The International Oil Developments remains vital, and for those concerned with energy questions (and who in Government is not?) the publication remains the source of significant analysis and indispensable data.

This does not mean that everything published is useful. The quantity may be more than is required but the regular reports cannot easily be reduced without leaving out something valuable to some, if not to all, to whom the publications are aimed. There is no question in my mind that there has been a real and continuous improvement in the published economic intelligence.

I think it is desirable and reasonable to believe that the quality of analysis may be improved further. I think it is reasonable that the policy-making officials in the United States and top Mission personnel overseas should express their hope that recommended approaches to key issues occasionally accompany the analysis. I can see why the policymaker would wish to be exposed to a range of choices and especially to the projection of the consequences which are attached to those options. But none of this explains the low rating which was given to the published materials nor the anomaly of an important member of a Mission who was not able to identify the major continuous publications for which it is unlikely that he had a substitute.

I undertook to report what I heard in the various Missions I visited. It is clear that we are left with an unresolved communications problem or a perceptual problem which needs resolution.

When there is an opportunity, I would once again like to raise very similar questions in another geographic area. I am not sure of the following, but I throw it out anyway. Perhaps the inquiries about the analytic role of the agency should remain separate from the two other questions into which I was inquiring.

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25X1  Either of the latter aspects could to some extent prejudice the responses to questions concerning the published economic materials.

I repeat in closing, my study of the economic publications I've received during the last ninety days (this does not include the most highly classified content because of my location away from Washington) requires me to say that the analysis is of high quality, the writing effortless and clear, the quantity manageable, the subject matter easy to identify and therefore skip if not relevant. I cannot conceive of myself carrying a policymaking responsibility, an advisory responsibility or a representative one and choosing to be indifferent to the availability of this support.

With deep regard,

Sincerely,



Leo Cherne

The Honorable William E. Colby  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Copies to Hon. Henry A. Kissinger  
Hon. William E. Simon

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